



Technology Overview



OCTOBER 2024

Bob Foreman Software Engineer Lead LexisNexis Risk Solutions

Welcome to NUHacks2024!

- ✓ Our challenge will use the HPCC Systems platform and ECL (Enterprise Control Language). This overview gives a detailed look at both!
- ✓ HPCC defined is a distributed data parallel processing platform.
 High Performance Computing Cluster
- ✓ Contains a THOR cluster where the majority of your coding will be done, and a ROXIE cluster to deliver your results.
- ✓ A proven platform for LexisNexis for over 20 years, and open source since 2011!



HPCC Systems: End to End Data Lake Management



Completely free

open source data lake solution



Out of the box capabilities for consistency and ease of use



Less coding

and more using (even though we love to code)





We are your one stop shop for all your data integration, querying and analytical needs



HPCC Systems Evolution

2001



Original version of HPCC Systems released

2011



Open source Apache license and code release to GitHub

Exceeded marketleading performance benchmark achieved 2012 - 16



Continuous
QUALITY-FOCUSED
improvements

Better support and training with improved integration — faster and easier to use

2017-2024



Improved processing architecture

IoT enabled

ML Expansion!

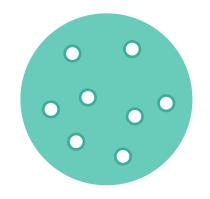
Cloud Native!



The Data Centric Approach

A single source of data is insufficient to overcome inaccuracies

Our platform is built on the premise of absorbing data from many data sources and transforming them to actionable smart data

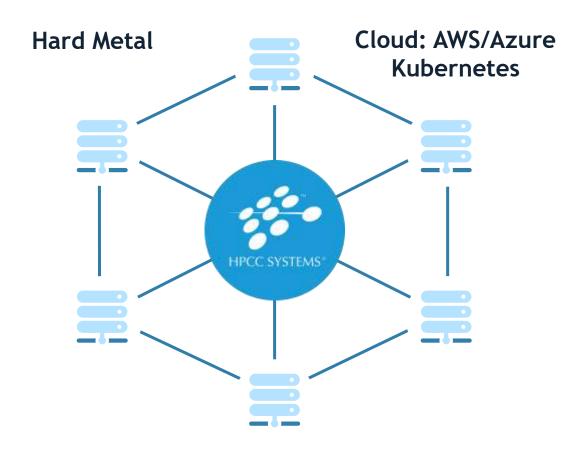




Scale from Small to Big

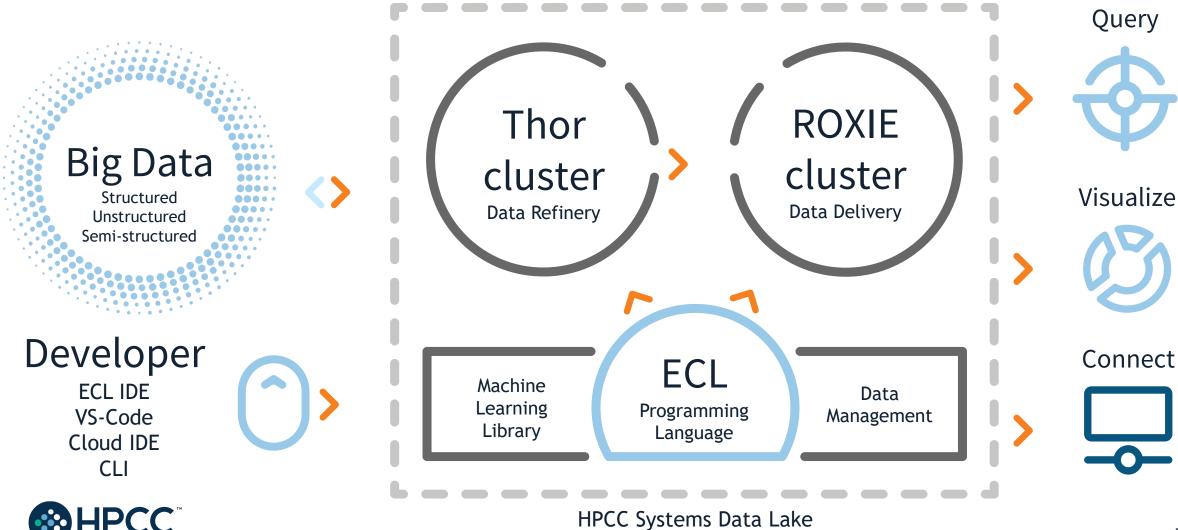
The stack can run on a single laptop or desktop. **Docker Desktop Localized Container**

In more sophisticated cases, HPCC Systems run clusters, hundreds of servers working as a single processing entity, to transform and deliver big data.





The HPCC Systems Components



Technology — The Open Source Stack



Thor: Data Refinery Cluster

Extraction, loading, cleansing, transforming, linking and indexing



ROXIE: Data Delivery Engine

Rapid data delivery cluster with high-performance online query delivery for big data



Data Management Tools

Data profiling, cleansing, snapshot data updates, consolidation, job scheduling and automation



Machine Learning Library

Linear regression, logistic regression, decision trees and random forests

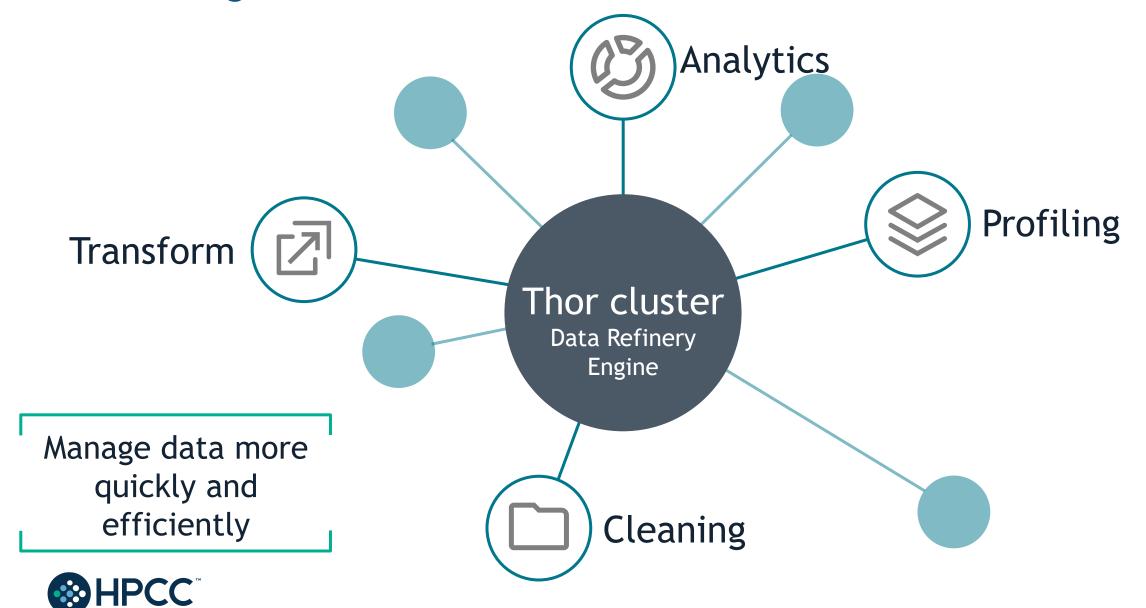


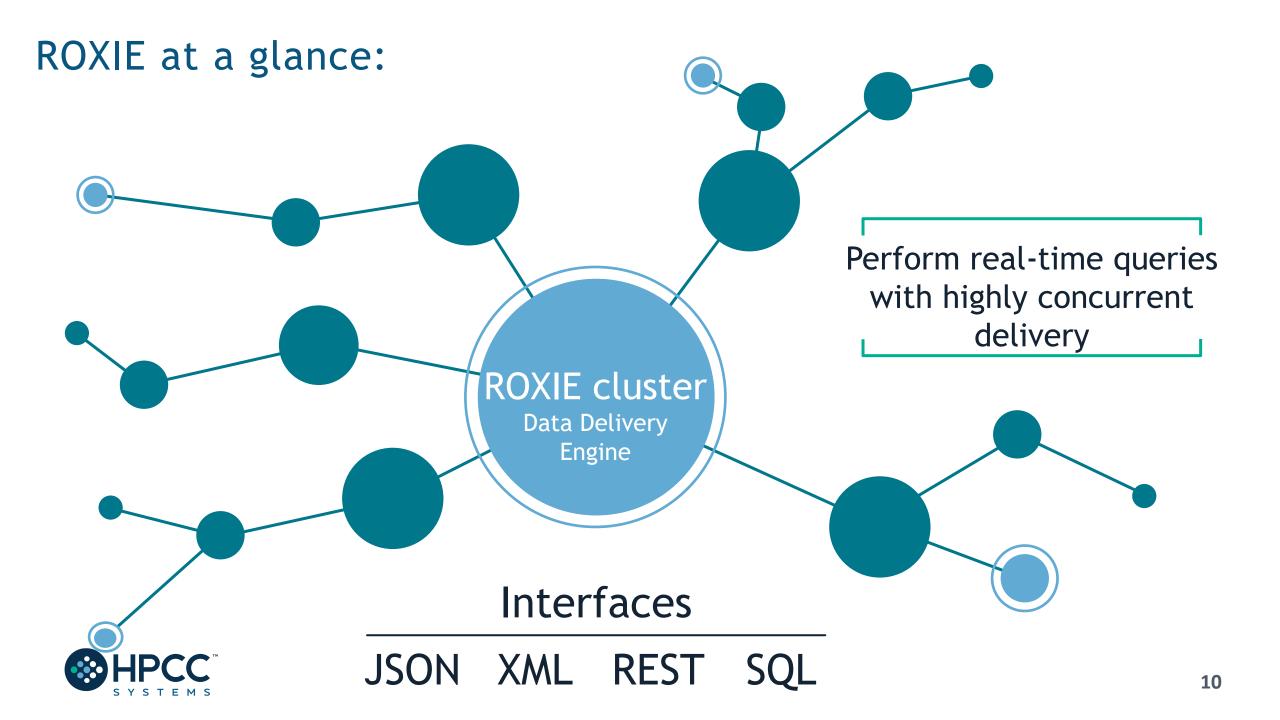


Connectivity & Third-Party Tools

New plugins to help integrate third party tools with the HPCC Systems platform

THOR at a glance:



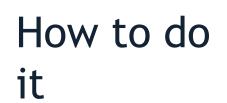


An Introduction to ECL



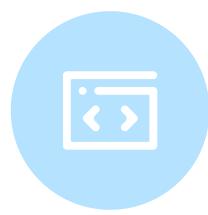
- Transparent and implicitly parallel programming language
- Both powerful and flexible











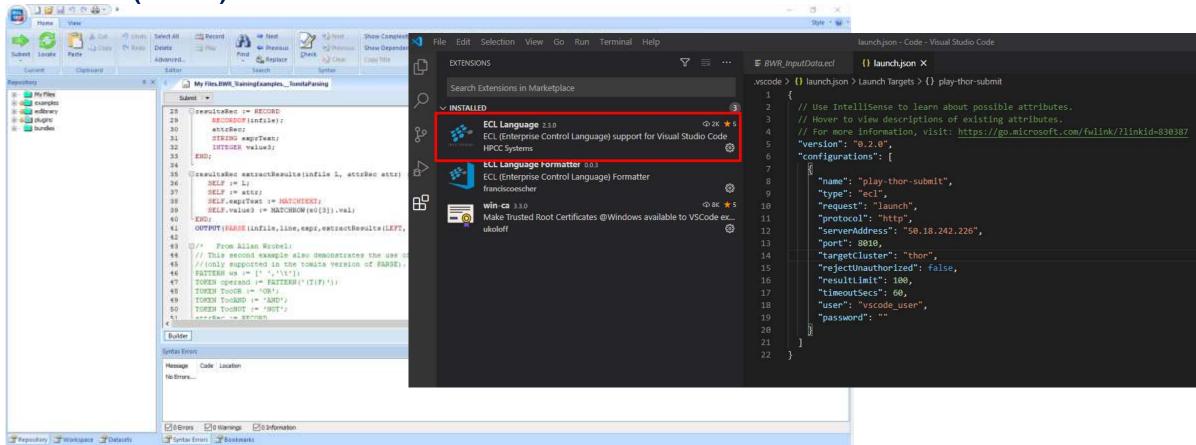
- Optimized for data-intensive operations, declarative, non-procedural and dataflow oriented
- Uses intuitive syntax which is modular, reusable, extensible and highly productive



Integrated Development Environments

ECL IDE (Win)

Visual Studio Code (Ux/MacOS)





And CLI too! ECL.EXE

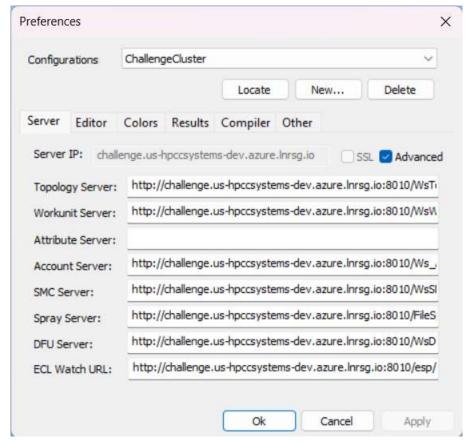
The Playing Field!

HPCC Cluster ECL Watch:

http://challenge.us-hpccsystems-dev.azure.lnrsg.io:8010

```
"name": "Challenge",
"type": "ecl",
"request": "launch",
"protocol": "http",
"serverAddress": "challenge.us-hpccsystems-dev.azure.lnrsg.io",
"port": 8010,
"path": "",
"targetCluster": "thor",
"abortSubmitOnError": true,
"rejectUnauthorized": true,
"resultLimit": 100,
"timeoutSecs": 60,
"user": "Bob F",
"password": ""
```

{} launch.json X





IDE Features:

A full-featured GUI for ECL development providing access to the ECL repository and many of the ECL Watch capabilities.

Uses various ESP services via SOAP.

Provides the easiest way to create:

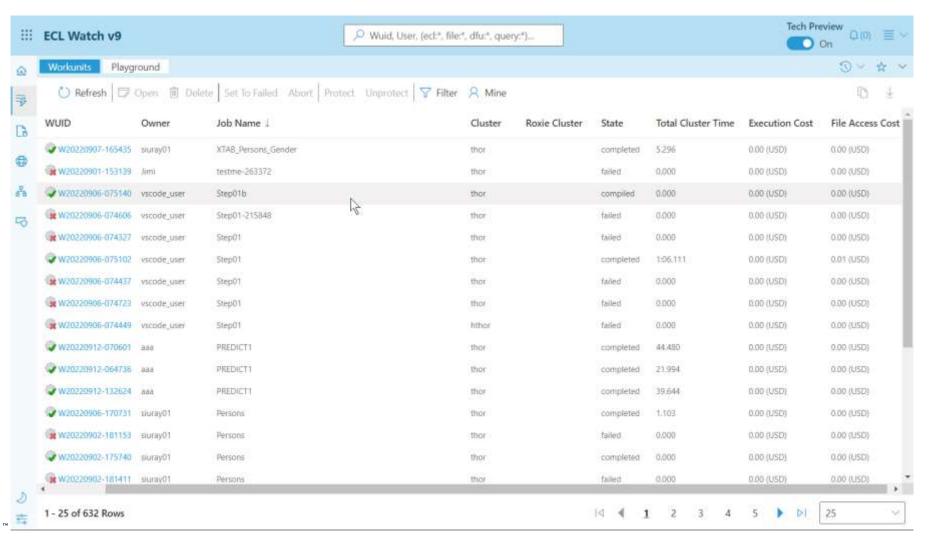


- 2. ECL Definitions to build your queries which:
- > Are created by coding an expression that defines how some calculation or record set derivation is to be done.
- > Once defined, can be used in succeeding ECL definitions.





The ECL Watch





ECL Watch Features:

A web-based query execution, monitoring and file management

interface. It can be accessed via ECL IDE or a web browser.

ECL Watch allows you to:

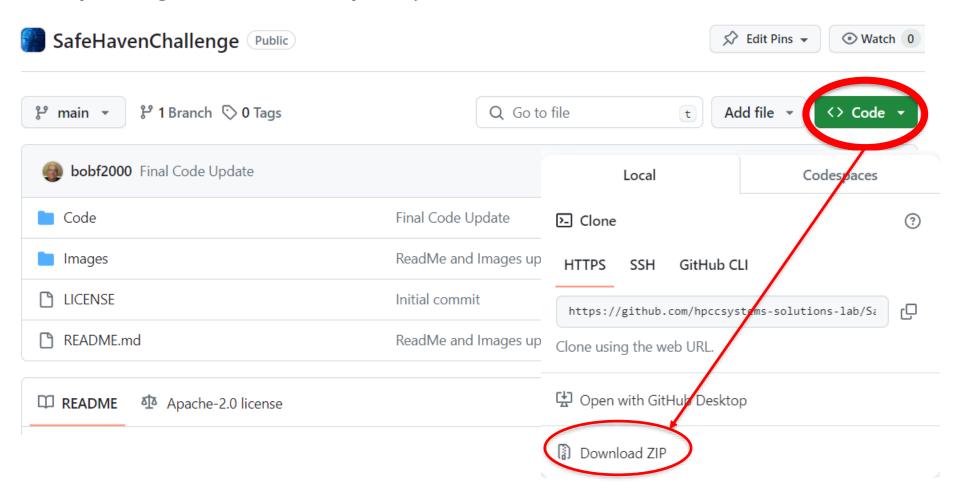
- 1. See information about active workunits.
- 2. Monitor cluster activity.
- 3. Browse through previously submitted Workunits.
- 4. See a visual representation of the data flow within the WU, complete with statistics which are updated as the job progresses.
- 5. Search through files and see information including:
 - Record counts and layouts.
 - Sample records.
 - The status of all system servers whether they are in clusters or not.
- 6. View log files.
- 7. Start and stop processes.





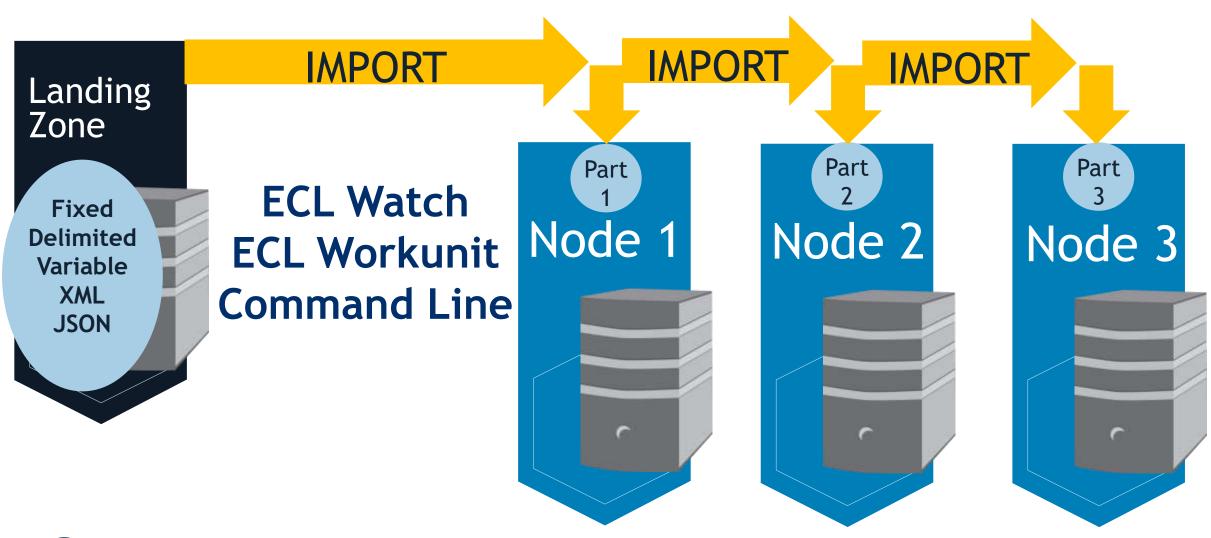
The Repo!

https://github.com/hpccsystems-solutions-lab/SafeHavenChallenge





Getting the data to the cluster!









ECL Overview

OCTOBER 2024

Bob Foreman Software Engineer Lead LexisNexis Risk Solutions

ECL (Enterprise Control Language)

ECL is a language designed to query and manipulate big data and is used for ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) and data visualization.

Extract

Reading and ingesting data from different type of datasets

Transform

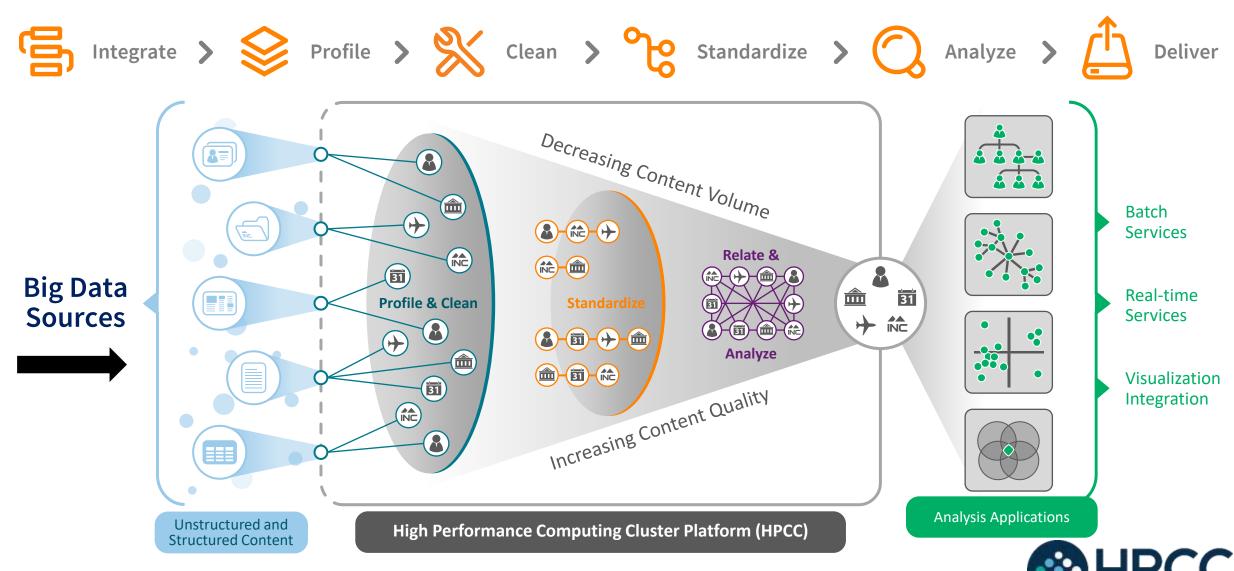
Formatting/converting data to needed shape and content

Load

Writing (Delivering) dataset to its target location



HPCC Systems (Small to Big Data) ETL



Fundamentals of ECL

- ✓ Declarative Language
- ✓ Not case-sensitive
- ✓ White space is ignored (Makes your code more readable)

```
// This is a single line comment
    /* A block comment */
```

- ✓ *Object.Property* syntax is used to qualify definition scope and disambiguate field references within datasets:
- ✓ FolderName.Definition //reference a definition from another module/folder
- ✓ Dataset.Field //reference a field in a dataset or record set



Fundamentals of ECL (Continued)

- ✓ Definition operator is := "is defined as" (firstname := 'Bob';)
- ✓ Semicolon is line terminator: num := 12 •
- ✓ Equality test: valOne = valTwo
- ✓ Not equal: Use <> or !=
- ✓ Definitions can be defined only once (They are *not* variables).
- ✓ Only those definitions that contribute to a result are compiled and used.
- ✓ There are no traditional loops! TRANSFORM and PROJECT is used instead.



Common Data Types

Character

- STRING[n]
- UTF8
- UNICODE[_locale][n]

Numeric

- INTEGER[n]
- UNSIGNED[n]
- REAL[n]
- DECIMAL<n>[_y]
- UDECIMAL<n>[_y]

Other

- BOOLEAN
- SET OF <type>
- RECORD
- DATASET

Usage:

Type Name := default value

UNSIGNED1 MyNumber := 0;

Name must start with a letter and can contain letters, numbers and the underscore character.



RECORD Structure

Defines the layout of fields in the dataset, order of the fields should be the same as the dataset.

DATASET

A physical data file. It can be defined in code (inline) or can be read from disk.

Job	Catergory	City	State	Avg_Salary
Manager	IT	Atlanta	GA	87000
Director	Art	Atlanta	GA	100000
CIO	IT	Tampa	FL	112000
Sales	General	Chicago	IL	55000



RECORD Structure Example:

```
EXPORT Layout_Company := RECORD
UNSIGNED sic_code;
STRING1
           source;
STRING120 company_name;
STRING10
           prim_range;
STRING2
           predir;
           prim_name;
STRING28
           addr_suffix;
STRING4
           postdir;
STRING2
STRING5
           unit_desig;
STRING8
           sec_range;
STRING25
           city;
STRING2
           state;
STRING5
           zip;
STRING4
           zip4;
STRING10
           phone;
END;
```



DATASET

```
name := DATASET( file, recorddef, THOR [options]);
name := DATASET( file, recorddef, CSV [ ( options ) ] );
name := DATASET( file, recorddef, XML( path,[options] ) );
name := DATASET( file, recorddef, JSON( path,[options] ) );
```

- ✓ name The definition name by which the file is subsequently referenced.
- √ file A string constant containing the logical filename.
- ✓ recorddef The RECORD structure of the dataset.
- ✓ options options specific to the dataset type.
- ✓ path A string constant containing the full XPATH to the tag that delimits the records in the *file*
- ✓ command third-party program that creates the dataset.

DATASET introduces a new data file into the system with the specified *recorddef* layout.



RECORDOF

RECORDOF(recordset)

• recordset – The set of data records whose RECORD structure to use. This may be a DATASET or any derived recordset.

The **RECORDOF** declaration specifies inheriting just the record layout (without default values) of the specified *recordset*.

```
t := TABLE(People, {LastName, FirstName});
```

```
newRec := RECORD

RECORDOF(t);

UNSIGNED1 NewByte;

END;

anotherRec := RECORD

newRec;

STRING20 NewName;

END;
```



Three ECL Data Rules

Before you begin to work on any data in the HPCC cluster, you must always do three things:











RECORD and DATASET example

Layout_Company := RECORD

```
UNSIGNED
              sic_code;
STRING120
              company name;
STRING10
               prim range;
STRING2
               predir;
STRING28
               prim name;
               addr suffix;
STRING4
               postdir;
STRING2
STRING5
               unit desig;
STRING8
               sec_range;
STRING25
               city;
STRING2
               state;
STRING5
              zip;
STRING4
              zip4;
END;
```

EXPORT File_Company_List := **DATASET**('~CLASS::Company_List', **Layout_Company**, THOR);



Inline Dataset

```
SalaryAvg_Layout := RECORD
 3
 4
         STRING Job;
 5
         STRING Category;
 6
         STRING City;
         STRING2 State;
 8
         INTEGER Avg Salary;
     END;
10
     //Inline Dataset
11
12
     SalaryAvg_DS := DATASET([
13
     {'Manager','IT', 'Atlanta', 'GA', 87000},
14
     {'Director', 'Art', 'Atlanta', 'GA', 100000},
     {'CIO','IT','Tampa','FL',112000},
15
     {'Sales', 'General', 'Chicago', 'IL', 55000}
16
17
     ], SalaryAvg_Layout);
18
     OUTPUT(SalaryAvg_DS);
19
```



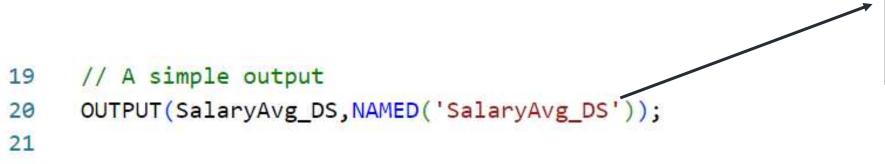
OUTPUT

Let's display the result.

CHOOSEN

Returns the first n number of records.

Job	Catergory	City	State	Avg_Salary
Manager	IT	Atlanta	GΑ	87000
Director	Art	Atlanta	GA	100000
CIO	IT	Tampa	FL	112000
Sales	General	Chicago	IL	55000



	##	job	category	city	state	avg_salary
	1	Manager	IT	Atlanta	GA	87000
	2	Director	Art	Atlanta	GA	100000
ı	3	CIO	IT	Tampa	FL	112000
	4	Sales	General	Chicago	IL	55000

23	OUTPUT	CHOOSEN (Salary

yAvg_DS,2),NAMED('SalaryAvg_Choosen'));

##	job	category	city	state	avg_salary
1	Manager	IT	Atlanta	GA	87000
2	Director	Art	Atlanta	GA	100000



//CHOOSEN

22

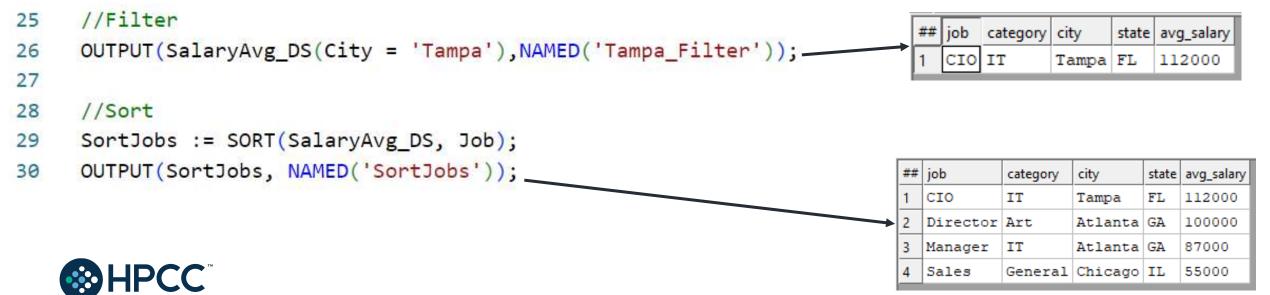
SORT

Ascending or descending sort

Job	Catergory	City	State	Avg_Salary
Manager	IT	Atlanta	GA	87000
Director	Art	Atlanta	GA	100000
CIO	IT	Tampa	FL	112000
Sales	General	Chicago	IL	55000

Filter

Choosing a smaller part of dataset. A BOOLEAN expression following any recordset or dataset.



More on Filtering

All records within *dataset* will be evaluated

If boolean_expression evaluates to TRUE for a particular record, it will be included in the result

Example:

youngOrLowIncome = allPeople(age < 20 **OR** avgHouseIncome <= 20000);



Math Functions

```
1
     Mathlayout := RECORD
                                                                     Num1
                                                                                  Num2
                                                                                               Num3
       INTEGER Num1;
       INTEGER Num2;
                                                                       20
                                                                                    45
                                                                                                 34
       INTEGER Num3;
                                                                       909
                                                                                    56
                                                                                                 45
     END;
                                                                       30
                                                                                                 90
                                                                                    -1
 6
     DS := DATASET([
 8
                     {20,45,34},
                    {909,56,45},
 9
                     {30,-1,90}
10
11
                   ], MathLayout);
12
13
     COUNT(DS);
                             //Counts the number of records in the dataset -- Returns 3
     MAX(DS, Num1);
                             //Returns the maximum value on a field in the dataset -- Returns 909
14
     MIN(DS, Num2);
                             //Returns the minimum value on a field in the dataset -- Returns -1
15
16
     AVE(DS, Num1);
                            //Returns the average value on a field in the dataset -- Returns 319.6666666666667
     SUM(DS, Num1 + Num3); //Returns the result of adding numbers together -- Returns 1128
17
     TRUNCATE(AVE(DS, Num1)); //Returns the interger portion of the real value. -- 319
18
19
     ROUND(3.45);
                            //Returns the rounded value -- Return 3
20
     ROUND(3.76);
                             //Returns the rounded value -- Return 4
```



CORRELATION

NumOne	NumTwo
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6 ,



CORRELATION(ds1, NumOne, NumTwo);





NumOne	NumTwo
1938960000.00	2044820000.00
1779710000.00	854858000.00
2961810000.00	1248480000.00
2774400000.00	1263570000.00
1144160000.00	434290000.00
3387280000.00	1302380000.00
3195380000.00	1711770000.00



CORRELATION(ds2, NumOne, NumTwo);



Returns 0.4978702535543908

FUNCTION (ECL Definitions with parameters)

```
myfunc (STRING val) := FUNCTION
        Result := 'Hello ' + val + ' , welcome to this function';
       RETURN Result;
     END;
 5
     //Using myfunc
     res := myfunc('Trish');
     OUTPUT(res, NAMED('FunctionResult'));
 9
10
     OUTPUT(myfunc('George'), NAMED('GeorgeTest'));
  FunctionResult: Hello Trish, welcome to this function
                                       GeorgeTest: Hello George, welcome to this function
      //Single line function:
12
      MaxVal(SET OF INTEGER numlist) := MAX(numlist);
13
      OUTPUT(MaxVal([2,5,8,10,45,11]), NAMED('CheckMax'));
14
```



MODULE

Is a container that allows you to group related definitions. The *parameters* passed to the module are shared by all the related *members* definitions.

Variable Scope

- Local definitions are visible only <u>up to an EXPORT or SHARED</u>
- SHARED definitions are visible within module.
- EXPORT definitions are visible within and outside of a module.



```
EXPORT myMod := MODULE
1
     //Visible only by MyMod
     SHARED x := 88;
     SHARED y := 42;
5
     //Visible by MyMod and externally
6
     EXPORT See := 'This is how a module works';
8
     EXPORT Res := Y * 2;
9
    END;
     IMPORT $;
     OUTPUT($.MyMod.See, NAMED('Message'));
     OUTPUT($.MyMod.Res, NAMED('Result'));
          Message: This is how a module works
                                           Result: 84
         Message
```



This is how a module works

TRANSFORM

Specifies exactly how each field in the output record set is to receive its value.

- It should include the result type.
- Should contain name
- Contains parameter list
- SELF: refers to fields in result type.

PROJECT

Processes through all the records in the dataset performing the TRANSFORM.

- LEFT: refers to dataset getting passed to PROJECT.
- COUNTER: Optional counter that counts calls to TRANSFORM



Standalone TRANSFORM

FirstName	LastName
Sun	Shine
Blue	Moon
Silver	Rose

NameOutRec: Result Layout

CatThem: Transform Name

Person_Layout: Input Dataset Layout

L : Reference to Person_Layout fields

SELF: Refers to fields in result dataset

C: Will do the Counting

firstname	lastname	catvalues	reccount
Sun	Shine	Sun Shine	1
Blue	Moon	Blue Moon	2
Silver	Rose	Silver Rose	3



```
Person Layout := RECORD
       STRING FirstName;
       STRING LastName;
     END;
     NameDS := DATASET([
                        {'Sun', 'Shine'},
                        {'Blue', 'Moon'},
                        {'Silver', 'Rose'}
10
                        1, Person Layout);
11
     NameOutRec := RECORD
12
       STRING15 FirstName;
13
       STRING15 LastName;
14
       STRING15 CatValues;
15
       UNSIGNED1 RecCount;
16
17
     END;
18
     NameOutRec CatThem(Person Layout Le, INTEGER Ct) := TRANSFORM
       SELF.CatValues := TRIM(Le.FirstName) + ' ' + Le.LastName;
       SELF.RecCount := Ct;
22
       SELF
                       := Le;
23
     END;
24
     CatRecs := PROJECT(nameDS, //dataset to loop through
26
                        CatThem //Transform name
                         (LEFT, //Left dataset which is nameDS
27
28
                        COUNTER //Simple Counter
                         ));
29
30
     OUTPUT(CatRecs, NAMED('CatRecs'));
31
```

Inline TRANSFORM

PersonalID	FirstName	LastName
100	Jo	Smith
203	Dan	Carpenter
498	Sally	Fryman
302	Silver	Rose

CatRecs: Project Name

NameDS: Input Dataset to loop through

NameOutRec: Result layout

SELF: Refers to fields in result dataset

SELF := LEFT: Assign everything with same field name from NameDS

SELF := []: All un-assigned fields will be set to default values

```
Person_Layout := RECORD
        INTEGER PersonID;
        STRING FirstName;
        STRING LastName;
      END;
      NameDS := DATASET([
                         {100, 'Jo', 'Smith'},
                         {203, 'Dan', 'Carpenter'},
                         {498, 'Sally', 'Fryman'},
10
                         {302, 'Silver', 'Rose'}
11
12
                          ], Person Layout);
13
      NameOutRec := RECORD
14
15
        UNSIGNED1 RecCount;
                                               reccount personalid personname
                                                                          futureaddress
        INTEGER
                  PersonID;
16
                                                      100
                                                             Jo Smith
17
        STRING
                   PersonName;
                                                     203
                                                             Dan Carpenter
                   FutureAddress;
18
        STRING
                                                             Sally Fryman
                                                     498
19
      END;
                                                      302
                                                             Silver Rose
20
      CatRecs := PROJECT(nameDS,
21
22
                          TRANSFORM(NameOutRec,
                            SELF.PersonName := LEFT.FirstName + ' ' + LEFT.LastName;
23
24
                            SELF.RecCount := COUNTER;
25
                                              := LEFT;
                             SELF
                                              := [];
26
                            SELF
27
                           ));
28
      OUTPUT(CatRecs, NAMED('Inline_CatRecs'));
29
```



TABLE (recordsets in memory, cross-tab tool)

```
Pickup_layout := RECORD
1
       STRING10 pickup_date;
       DECIMAL8 2 fare;
       DECIMAL8 2 distance;
 5
     END;
 6
     Pickup_DS := DATASET([
                           {'2015-01-01',25.10,5},
 8
 9
                           {'2015-01-01',40.15,8},
                           {'2015-01-02',30.10,6},
10
11
                           {'2015-01-02',25.15,4}
12
                           ], Pickup_Layout);
13
     crossTabLayout := RECORD
14
       Pickup DS.pickup date;
15
       avgFare := AVE(GROUP, Pickup_DS.fare);
16
17
       totFare := SUM(GROUP, Pickup_DS.fare);
18
     END;
19
20
     crossTabDS := TABLE(Pickup_DS, // Input Dataset
21
                         crossTabLayout,
                          pickup date);
22
23
     OUTPUT(crossTabDS, NAMED('crossTabs'));
24
```

pickup_date	fare	distance
2015-01-01	25.1	5
2015-01-01	40.15	8
2015-01-02	30.1	6
2015-01-02	25.15	4

pickup_date	avgfare	totalfare
2015-01-01	32.625	65.25
2015-01-02	27.625	55.25



JOIN

The JOIN function produces a result set based on the intersection of two or more datasets or indexes.

INNER: Only those records that exist in both datasets.

LEFT OUTER: At least one record for every record in the left.

RIGHT OUTER: At least one record for every record in the right.

LEFT ONLY: One record for each left record with no match in the left.

RIGHT ONLY: One record for each left record with no match in the right.

FULL ONLY: One record for each left and right record with no match in the opposite.



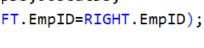
EmpDS

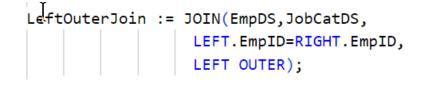
EmpID	Name	HireYear
1000	Jack	2014
2000	Blue	2016
3000	Mary	2016
5000	Mart	2000
8000	Cat	2002

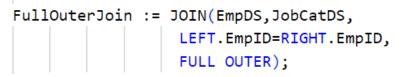
JobCatDS

Department	Title
IT	developer
Biz	Manager
Fin	accountant
IT	analyst
	Biz Fin

InnerJoin := JOIN(EmpDS, JobCatDS, LEFT.EmpID=RIGHT.EmpID);









empid name hireyear department title

		The second secon	Department of the Control of the Con	
1000	Jack	2014	IT	Developer
2000	Blue	2016	Biz	Manager
8000	Cat	2002	IT	Analyst

empid	name	hireyear	department	title
1000	Jack	2014	IT	Developer
2000	Blue	2016	Biz	Manager
3000	Mary	2016		
5000	Marty	2000		
8000	Cat	2002	IT	Analyst

empid	name	hireyear	department	title
1000	Jack	2014	IT	Developer
2000	Blue	2016	Biz	Manager
3000	Mary	2016		
4000		0	Fin	Accountant
5000	Marty	2000		
8000	Cat	2002	IT	Analyst



VISUALIZATION (built-ins and an ECL Bundle)

Methods include

- Two-Dimensional
- Multi-Dimensional Methods
- Geospatial
- Relational
- And more!

A basic visualization typically requires the following steps:

- Creation of a suitable dataset.
- 2. Output the dataset with a suitable name, so that visualization can locate the data.
- 3. Create (and output) the visualization, referencing the named output from step 2



Bubble

Pie

Bar

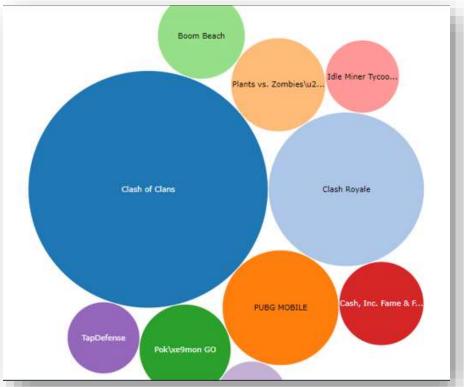
Scatter

Line

WorldCloud

Area





Useful links!

NUhacks'24 HPCC Systems Wiki Page:

https://hpccsystems.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/hpcc/pages/115048451/Northeastern+University+Hackathon+2024

"Learn ECL" Web Tutorial:

https://solutionslab.hpccsystems.com/learn-ecl/introduction/

ECL training containing six short videos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=192&v=Lk78BCCtM-0

ECL documentation

http://cdn.hpccsystems.com/releases/CE-Candidate-9.8.22/docs/EN_US/ECLLanguageReference_EN_US-9.8.22-1.pdf

Visualization document

https://cdn.hpccsystems.com/releases/CE-Candidate-9.8.22/docs/EN US/VisualizingECL EN US-9.8.22-1.pdf

Standard Library

https://cdn.hpccsystems.com/releases/CE-Candidate-9.8.22/docs/EN_US/ECLStandardLibraryReference_EN_US-9.8.22-1.pdf

Machine Learning

https://hpccsystems.com/download/free-modules/machine-learning-library



Get in Touch

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